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DALLAS (UPI) - THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SAID TODAY NEW LEGAL CONSTRAINTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RECOGNIZING AMERICAN CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PRIVACY, HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND RESULTED IN A TEMPTATION TO BE TOO CAUTIOUS.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER TOLD MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION THAT NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH THE AGENCY MUST OPERATE HAVE HAD A "HEAVY IMPACT ON THE SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY WITH WHICH WE TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACT."

"THE ISSUES ARE VERY COMPLEX, AND MUST BE EVALUATED AND UNDERSTOOD BY OUR PEOPLE IN THE FIELD, WHO ARE NOT ATTORNEYS," HE SAID. "(AN AGENT'S) INITIATIVE MAY BE DULLED. THERE IS A TEMPTATION TO OVER CAUTION."

TURNER SAID HE HOPED MANY OF THE CURRENT DILEMMAS HE SAYS THE AGENCY FACES MIGHT BE RESOLVED BY LEGISLATION PENDING IN CONGRESS THAT WOULD PROVIDE CHARTERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ESTABLISHING BOTH ITS AUTHORITY AND BOUNDARIES FOR INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.

MEANWHILE, HE TOLD ABA MEMBERS AT THEIR CONVENTION, U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS UNDERGOING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES.

"WE ARE MOVING FROM AN ACTIVIST-INTERVENTIONIST POSITION TO ONE THAT RECOGNIZES LIMITATIONS," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE A MORE BALANCED VIEW OF WHERE AND WHAT WE CAN DO. THE U.S. CANNOT TAKE SIDES ON ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS, BUT WE NEED GOOD INTELLIGENCE TO TELL US WHEN AND WHERE IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS IN THE LONG RUN TO INTERVENE."

TURNER SAID THE CIA'S SPHERE OF INTEREST ALSO HAS VASTLY EXPANDED. HE SAID THE AGENCY WAS NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, BUT ALSO HAD TO BE AWARE OF SUCH AREAS AS POLITICS, ECONOMICS, FOOD SHORTAGES AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS.

TURNER SAID THERE WAS A "LINGERING SUSPICION" ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT BE INVADING THE PRIVACY OF CITIZENS.

"THEY ARE NOT," TURNER SAID.

HE SAID THE AGENCY ALSO FACED SERIOUS QUESTIONS POSED BY THE INHERENTLY SECRET NATURE OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OFTEN NECESSITATED BY JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

HE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO WAS TRYING TO DELIVER SECRETS TO A FOREIGN AGENT. BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC NATURE OF U.S. TRIALS, TURNER SAID, PROSECUTION OF THE DEFENDANT "MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING WHAT THE DEFENDANT TRIED BUT FAILED TO DO" - MAKING PUBLIC SECRET INFORMATION.

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